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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TREMAIN DION CAMPBELL,

Petitioner,

v.

TIM VIRGA, Warden,

Respondent.

Case No. CV 10-1698 JGB (JCG)

**ORDER ACCEPTING REPORT AND  
RECOMMENDATION OF UNITED  
STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE,  
GRANTING PETITION FOR WRIT  
OF HABEAS CORPUS, AND  
DENYING CERTIFICATE OF  
APPEALABILITY**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636, the Court has reviewed the Petition, the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation, Respondent's Objections to the Report and Recommendation, and the remaining record, and has made a *de novo* determination.

Respondent's Objections generally reiterate the arguments made in his Answer, Supplemental Brief, and Response to Petitioner's Supplemental Brief. [Dkt. Nos. 31, 38, 52.] As such, the Objections generally lack merit for the reasons set forth in the Report and Recommendation. There is one issue, however, that warrants brief amplification here.

In his Objections, Respondent argues that the Report and Recommendation incorrectly shouldered the government with the burden of proving the validity of Petitioner's waiver of counsel. And, admittedly, Petitioner, not Respondent, bears the ultimate burden of proof with respect to each of his allegations of constitutional

1 violations, including his claim that his waiver of the right to counsel was invalid. *See*  
2 *Ben-Shalom v. Ayers*, 674 F.3d 1095, 1099 (9th Cir. 2012).

3 Regardless, no matter how the burden is allocated, the record still proves that  
4 Petitioner's waiver was invalid.

5 Under *Faretta v. California*, 422 U.S. 806 (1975), a valid waiver of counsel  
6 requires a defendant to "knowingly and intelligently forgo" the "traditional benefits  
7 associated with the right to counsel." *Id.* at 835 (citation omitted). Under *Iowa v.*  
8 *Tovar*, 541 U.S. 77 (2004), a valid waiver of counsel upon pleading guilty requires that  
9 a defendant be informed "of the nature of the charges against him, of his right to be  
10 counseled regarding his plea, and of the *range of allowable punishments.*" *Id.* at 81  
11 (emphasis added). As cogently explained by the Ninth Circuit, "[t]he requirement  
12 recounted in *Tovar* complements the requisites for a valid waiver of the right to  
13 counsel described in *Faretta*.... Taken together, [*Tovar* and *Faretta*] outline the  
14 minimum necessary knowledge for a defendant to calculate knowingly and  
15 intelligently the risk of proceeding to trial *pro se.*" *Arrendondo v. Neven*, 2014 WL  
16 4056516, at \*7 (9th Cir. Aug. 18, 2014).

17 Here, the trial court and the prosecutor never informed Petitioner that he faced a  
18 potential penalty of 106 years to life, as alleged in the original information, or 96 years  
19 to life, as alleged in the amended information. Instead, Petitioner waived his right to  
20 counsel after being told that he faced the significantly lower potential penalty of fifty  
21 years to life. And in fact, upon his conviction after proceeding to trial *pro se*,  
22 Petitioner was sentenced to seventy years to life.

23 Thus, under clearly established federal law, Petitioner's waiver of counsel was  
24 invalid. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d)(1).

25 Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- 26 1. The Report and Recommendation is approved and accepted;
- 27 2. Judgment be entered conditionally granting the Petition as to Ground One,  
28 and denying the Petition with prejudice as to Grounds Two through Eight;

1 3. Petitioner either be brought to retrial within sixty (60) days of the date of  
2 the judgment – plus any additional delay authorized under state law – or,  
3 alternatively, be discharged from the adverse consequences of his  
4 conviction in Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. KA074541.

5 4. The Clerk serve copies of this Order on the parties.

6 Additionally, for the reasons stated in the Report and Recommendation, the  
7 Court finds that Petitioner has not made a substantial showing of the denial of a  
8 constitutional right, as regards Grounds Two through Eight. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2253;  
9 Fed. R. App. P. 22(b); *Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (2003). Thus, the  
10 Court declines to issue a certificate of appealability.

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12 DATED: October 22, 2014



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15 HON. JESUS G. BERNAL  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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